

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9072

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0118

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNSC, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN ANNOUNCING UNSC CANDIDACY

1. JAPANESE MISSION COUNSELLOR ONDA CALLED JANUARY 13 TO INFORM US THAT THEY WILL BE CIRCULATING TO UN MEMBERSHIP WITHIN A FEW DAYS AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF JAPAN'S CANDIDACY FOR ELECTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL WHEN THE 33RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY TAKES UP THIS QUESTION THIS FALL.

2. ONDA RECALLED THAT JAPAN HAS ALREADY SUBMITTED ITS REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT TO THE ASIAN GROUP. SINCE BANGLADESH HAD ALREADY REQUESTED THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE ASIAN GROUP, HOWEVER, THE TWO STATES ARE IN DIRECT COMPETITION FOR GROUP ENDORSEMENT. ONDA SAID THAT MONOLIA HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST IN ENTERING THE RACE, BUT RECENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT MONGOLIA WILL NOT FORMALLY FILE A CANDIDACY.

3. ONDA SAID JAPAN IS IN DISCUSSION WITH BANGLADESH ABOUT THEIR COMPETITIVE CANDIDACIES. BANGLADESH GIVES NO INDICATION THUS FAR THAT IT WILL BE WILLING TO STEP ASIDE IN FAVOR OF JAPAN. JAPAN THEREFORE SPECULATES THAT ASIAN GROUP DECISION ON SINGLE SLATE WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE UNTIL THIS FALL. IN FACT, JAPAN FULLY EXPECTS THAT THE GROUP WILL

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BE UNABLE TO AGREE ON SINGLE CANDIDATE AND JAPAN, THEREFORE, WILL BE RUNNING IN DIRECT COMPETITION WITH BANGLADESH IN THE ELECTION. IT IS WITH THIS PROSPECT IN MIND THAT JAPAN HAS DECIDED TO MAKE GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS CANDIDACY, TO LAY THE GROUND WORK FOR AN APPEAL FOR VOTES.

4. IN PREVIOUS INFORMAL COMMENTS HINTING AT THIS COURSE OF

ACTION, JAPANESE MISSION OFFICERS HAVE INDICATED A FIRM RESOLVE IN THE GAIMUSHO WITH THE ACTIVE INTEREST OF THE PRIME MINISTER TO MORE AGGRESSIVELY TO SECURE JAPAN A SEAT ONCE MORE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THIS OBJECTIVE CONFLICTS WITH CONVENTIONAL ASIAN GROUP AGREEMENTS ON ROTATION OF MEMBERSHIP, JAPAN ARGUES THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE REGION WILL OBVIOUSLY BE BETTER SERVED BY REPRESENTATIVE BY JAPAN THAT BANGLADESH OR MONGOLIA. THE LOCAL MISSION EXPECTS THAT THIS UNACCUSTOMED FORTHRIGHTNESS WILL RAISE SOME EYEBROWS AND POSSIBLE FEELING, AT LEAST WITHIN THE ASIAN GROUP. JAPAN'S MOVE OBVIOUSLY IS RELATED TO THE BASIC PERCEPTION OF THE PROPRIETY OF A LARGER MORE ACTIVE UN ROLE IN LIGHT OF JAPAN'S MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES, WHICH UNDERLIES ITS CONTINUING INTEREST IN A PERMANENT SEAT ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

LEONARD

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